



Nature Trust Protects 85-acre Herbert River Property, Launches Freshwater Conservation Campaign

HALIFAX, June 20, 2013 – The Nova Scotia Nature Trust announced today the permanent protection of an 85-acre river-front property on the Herbert River, in Hants County, Nova Scotia. The rich complex of wetlands and forests is part of larger plan to protect a spectacular 5500-acre freshwater wilderness. Its permanent protection also fulfills a local canoe enthusiast’s vision of preserving an idyllic backcountry canoeing route and opportunity for future generations to experience the magic of a treasured pristine river wilderness.

The Herbert River property is home to a rich diversity of wildlife including many breeding birds, and provides important habitat for Canada Warbler, Rusty Blackbird, Olive-sided Flycatcher and Wood Turtle, all federally-listed “species-at-risk” in Canada.

Long-time Nature Trust member and volunteer, Dr. Dusan Soudek, purchased the property in 2010 with the intent of ensuring this special place was protected, forever. Tonight his dream has been realized. He and the Nature Trust signed a conservation easement that will protect the lands in perpetuity.

“I saw an opportunity to acquire this land, and knew I needed to act immediately,” said Dr. Soudek. “I believe it is so important to protect ecologically significant lands and to preserve our last remaining wilderness areas, for future generations to enjoy. And I knew the Nature Trust could help me to fulfil my conservation vision.”

Located along a renowned backcountry paddling route, the easement also helps to preserve an important wilderness recreation resource, something greatly valued by Dr. Soudek. A lifelong passionate canoeist, he was delighted the easement allows for continued recreational

use and enjoyment of the lands, while restricting any development or destruction of the site's natural habitats and species.

A family physician dedicated to promoting and encouraging active living, Dr. Soudek leads by example, volunteering countless hours helping Nova Scotians to discover the outdoors and to make it part of a healthy active lifestyle. He is delighted his protected lands can now be used as an outdoor classroom and opportunity for hands-on conservation volunteerism for generations to come.



“Dr. Soudek’s land legacy gift is a perfect testament to his commitment both to protecting nature and encouraging and inspiring Nova Scotians to explore and experience the magic of our incredible natural areas,” said Nature Trust Executive Director, Bonnie Sutherland.

“This conservation easement not only protects 85 acres of beautiful and ecologically rich river, wetland and forest habitat, but is a keystone property that will help fulfill a broader vision of protecting a vast 5,500-acre wilderness along the Herbert River,” added Sutherland.

The property is bordered by 5,400 acres of Crown land proposed for protection in the Province’s new protected areas plan. The Nature Trust is working in partnership with the Province towards protecting the entire Devil’s Jaw wilderness, encompassing both Crown and private lands. Protecting Dr. Soudek’s “inholding” of private land ensures the land will not be disturbed – eliminating threats of roads, vehicles, invasive species, and development that could undermine the opportunity to preserve, intact, such a vast and pristine wilderness.

The protection of the Herbert River Conservation Lands formally launches the Nature Trust’s *Fresh Water Legacy Campaign* – an initiative focused on protecting Nova Scotia’s increasingly vulnerable freshwater habitats. The lands bordering lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands are critical to maintaining clean water, healthy watersheds, and sustaining critical habitat for wildlife. To date, the Nature Trust has protected 58 conservation sites, encompassing over 7,200 acres of outstanding natural areas – including over 4500 acres of freshwater habitat including property on 13 lakes and 7 rivers.

The Nature Trust signed the Herbert River conservation easement at their Conservation Showcase and Annual General Meeting held tonight at George Wright House in Halifax.

For more information on the Herbert River property or the Nova Scotia Nature Trust, please visit www.nsnt.ca or call 902-425-5263.